



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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August 20, 2013

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1-P August 20, 2013

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COMPETITIVE EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE
TO THE SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT;
AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION
OF EXCESS FUNDS GRANTS FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT
TREE PLANTING AND ARTISTIC ANTI-GRAFFITI GRANT PROGRAMS; AND ADOPT BY
REFERENCE THE BALDWIN HILLS REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S MITIGATED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR
THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY'S PARK TO PLAYA
STOCKER CORRIDOR TRAILHEAD TREE PLANTING PROJECT
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$1,725,151 in Competitive Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for tree planting grants to various cities and artistic anti-graffiti grants to the City of Inglewood and to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and adopt by reference the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority's Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Park to Playa – Stocker Corridor Trailhead Tree Planting Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Tree Planting Projects for the cities of Compton, Culver City, Hawthorne, Inglewood, and to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Trust For Public Land, Tree People, North East Trees, Koreatown Youth & Community Center, From Lot to Spot and the Artistic Anti-graffiti Projects for the City of Inglewood and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission are categorically

exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Projects.

2. Certify that the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act, has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Park to Playa – Stocker Corridor Trailhead Tree Planting Project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program adopted by the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority on May 28, 2013, as lead agency; determine that the documents adequately address the environmental impacts of the proposed project; find that your Board has complied with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act with respect to the process for a responsible agency; and adopt by reference the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority's Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

3. Allocate \$1,449,601 of Competitive Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District for tree planting grants as follows:

- a. City of Compton - \$150,000
- b. City of Culver City - \$150,000
- c. City of Hawthorne - \$150,000
- d. City of Inglewood - \$150,000
- e. Los Angeles Conservation Corps - \$228,380
- f. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority - \$150,000
- g. Trust For Public Land - \$142,008
- h. Tree People - \$28,893
- i. North East Trees - \$149,338
- j. Koreatown Youth & Community Center - \$75,000
- k. From Lot to Spot - \$75,982

4. Allocate total of \$275,550 of Competitive Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District for an artistic anti-graffiti grant, \$25,550 to the City of Inglewood and \$250,000 for an artistic anti-graffiti grant to the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

5. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants to the various grantees, in the total amount of \$1,725,151, for their various tree planting and artistic anti-graffiti grants, when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects, otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total of \$1,449,601 in Competitive Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for the following tree planting projects:

- City of Compton for its \$150,000 Compton Tree Planting Project;
- City of Culver City for its \$150,000 Culver City Citywide Tree Planting Project;
- City of Hawthorne for its \$150,000 Hawthorne Boulevard Tree Planting Project;

- City of Inglewood for its \$150,000 Inglewood Citywide Tree Planting Project;
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps for its \$150,000 Southern Los Angeles County Parkway Tree Planting Project;
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps for its \$78,380 Second District Park Reforestation Project,
- The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for its \$150,000 Park to Playa – Stocker Corridor Trailhead Tree Planting Project, which involves tree planting as part of the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority's (BHRCA) Park to Playa Trail Project, whose Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is also recommended herein for adoption by your Board;
- Trust For Public Land for its \$142,008 for its Avalon Green Alley Network Tree Planting Project,
- Tree People for its \$28,893 Campus Forestry Project,
- North East Trees for its \$149,338 HACLA Fruit Tree Planting Project,
- Koreatown Youth & Community Center for its \$75,000 KYCC Neighborhood Forestry Project, and
- From Lot to Spot for its \$75,982 Lennox Engagement and Enhancement Project.

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total of \$275,550 in Competitive Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District pursuant to the 1996 Proposition, for the following artistic anti-graffiti projects:

- The City of Inglewood for its \$25,550 Darby Park Art Action Project,
- The Los Angeles County Arts Commission for its \$250,000 Civic Art Graffiti Abatement Project.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grants to the various grantees, when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreements to follow California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, if applicable, and to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing urban tree planting and the environmental benefits from trees in parkways and artistic projects to fight graffiti in the Second Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$1,725,151, is budgeted in the Second Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The various grantees meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants would be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Second

Supervisory District from Excess Funds for competitively-awarded projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide, for governing the administration of District grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The cities of Compton, Culver City, and Hawthorne are the lead agencies for their respective tree planting projects. The City of Inglewood is the lead agency for its tree planting and Darby Park Art Action Projects. RPOSD is the lead agency for the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Trust for Public Land, Tree People, North East Trees, Koreatown Youth and Community Center and From Lot to Spot tree planting projects. RPOSD is also the lead agency for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's Civic Art Graffiti Abatement Project.

The proposed Tree Planting Projects are categorically exempt from CEQA. The projects, which consist of planting trees, are within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Section 15304 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 4 (c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the projects involve new landscaping.

The proposed projects include no expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, the proposed projects are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed projects' records.

With respect to your Board's approval of MRCA's Park to Playa – Stocker Corridor Trailhead Tree Planting Project identified herein, the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority (BHRCA) is the lead agency for the overall Park to Playa Trail Project. The County also acts as a responsible agency for the purposes of CEQA, and therefore, we recommend that your Board independently consider and adopt BHRCA's Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project.

The proposed Artistic Anti-graffiti Projects are categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15301 (d) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed projects consist of rehabilitation of existing structures involving negligible or no expansion of use.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the

Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended projects will enhance the environment through the tree planting and enhance public participation in artistic anti-graffiti projects at public spaces in the Second Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:lb

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors